

**CHATTANOOGA–HAMILTON COUNTY BICENTENNIAL LIBRARY  
1001 BROAD STREET  
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEETING – MARCH 15, 2011**

**4:00 P.M.**

The Board of Directors of the Chattanooga–Hamilton County Bicentennial Library met on March 15, 2011, at 4:00 p.m., in the Board Room with Mr. David Turner presiding.

The following members were present: Herb Cohn  
Andy Derryberry  
Mary Lou Drazich  
Mai Bell Hurley  
Doris Kelly  
Chrystal Partridge  
Rickie Pierce  
David Turner  
Barbara Wofford

Also present were Eva Johnston, interim director; Eileen Johnson, fiscal coordinator; Andria Davis, community relations coordinator; and May Langmann, administrative assistant.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2011, BOARD MEETING:**

*Dr. Barbara Wofford moved that the minutes of the February 15, 2011, meeting be approved, Mr. Herb Cohn seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved and carried.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Ms. Mary Lou Drazich reviewed the February financial statement.

Income:

Under Miscellaneous Income we have \$50,166.75 which is our annual distribution from the Stong Trust at SunTrust Bank. We are now 69% into our budget.

Expenses:

Under Other Contractual Services, we have an expense of \$32,792.59 which is a charge related to the new computer system. Under Insurance, \$27,981.00 is the annual premium for our five library locations covering property, contents, and vehicles. We are 60% into our expense budget for the year.

On-Demand:

We had receipts of \$2,359 for the month. We purchased items in the amount of \$3,303.84, leaving us a net income of \$6,621.84.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mrs. Johnston reported that our circulation was down for the month. She reminded the Board that the library was closed for several days for the Polaris migration.

The new automation system is going well. The main problems the library is experiencing are data issues transferred over from CARL. She described a cataloging problem, which was resolved today.

Mrs. Johnston talked to the elevator repairman today. The parts have been ordered and the contract has been signed. They took measurements for new digital panels that will be inside the elevators.

**OTHER MATTERS:**

Mr. Herb Cohn wanted to talk to the Board about A Tale For One City. He said the committee, of which he is a member, carried over unspent money from previous programs. All the fundraising done by the A Tale For One City committee was in support of public schools and the training teachers. Everyone reading one book, making a big deal of it, and bringing a nationally famous author to Chattanooga accomplished this. We did this for 4 years. The program was temporarily discontinued because the new school superintendent and staff were not ready to support it. The Friends of the Library is holding \$8,607.00 in their account for this program. Mr. Cohn has been working with Mrs. Lee Hope, Children's and Young Adult Services Coordinator, to bring Connie Regan-Blake to Chattanooga on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Regan-Blake used to be a member of the staff of the library and she is a national storyteller. Mrs. Hope negotiated a contract with Ms. Regan-Blake who waived \$1,000 in fees and her travel expenses. Mrs. Hope is tied-in with Allison Roberts, the lead librarian for the Hamilton County public school system. There will be two workshops to teach librarians how to use storytelling in the classroom effectively, one workshop for Kindergarten to Grade 5 librarians and one for 6 to 12<sup>th</sup> grade librarians. There will also be an evening program for families. Invitations will be given to the independent schools (GPS, etc.) to encourage community-wide participation.

Mr. Cohn said we have two outstanding co-chairs that will lead A Tale For One City in 2013. It will be the co-chairs' decision whether we go back to the original format – having one book for adults and older students as we did with Fannie Flagg – or whether we instead choose a young adult author and try to get the program back into the public schools.

In a separate issue, Mr. Cohn passed around a copy of the volunteer schedule for the Friends of the Library book sale scheduled for April 2–11 at Eastgate Town Center. In the past, very few Board members have participated and the Friends really need our help. This is the primary fundraiser for the Friends, which provide funds for the library. He asked those Board members who are able to, to volunteer. Mrs. Johnston suggested that if anyone knows a group like a Scout troop or a sorority that performs volunteer or community service work, to ask them if they would like to do this project for the library.

Ms. Drazich asked Mr. Cohn to explain to the Board how the A Tale For One City program works, which he did.

Ms. Drazich told the Board that Mr. Cohn is one of the nominees for the Jefferson Award this year. The Board offered their congratulations to Mr. Cohn.

Mrs. Hurley asked if the library has any collaboration with the Conference on Southern Literature. Mrs. Johnston said we do not. Ms. Andria Davis said we have brochures and posters in the branches and are working on displays here at the downtown library. Mrs. Hurley said we probably need to put this down on our "to do" list for 2013 and invite authors to come to the library.

Dr. Barbara Wofford informed the Board that Mrs. Mai Bell Hurley has been nominated as Tennessee Woman of Distinction. The Board offered Mrs. Hurley their congratulations as well.

Mr. Turner informed the Board that he, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Eileen Johnson and Ms. Davis met with the City Council Finance Committee two weeks ago and then he, Mrs. Johnston and Mrs. Johnson met with Councilwoman Debra Scott in private last week. He thinks we are in great shape on our operating budget. He said Councilman Jack Benson had very good things to say about the library and believes the downtown library should be the focus of improvements. Councilwoman Carol Berz was ill and was not there to speak on behalf of the Eastgate library's relocation and expansion, which was also a topic of discussion. During the library's presentation, Mayor Littlefield took the microphone, speaking highly about libraries while answering questions from council members.

Mr. Turner told Ms. Debra Scott at their meeting that there is a lot of interest in the library system but a lot of the interest is parochial. Northgate patrons are interested in the Northgate library and Eastgate patrons are interested in the Eastgate library. Ms. Scotts was very helpful, Mr. Turner said. She allotted 50 minutes to meet with us but met instead for 2 hours and 15 minutes. Mrs. Hurley said that must have been a pattern because another agency had the same experience. Ms. Scott is reviewing every agency that receives sales tax money.

A short discussion followed about the difference in the amount of taxes paid by city residents compared to that of the county residents.

Ms. Davis told the Board that as they leave today, if they stop at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, they will see our tapestries hung on the wall with a plaque telling the history of the WPA (Work Projects Administration) New Deal agency and local participation. We also have a rain barrel display on this floor. We are partnering with the North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy on this exhibit.

There were no other comments or discussions. Mr. Turner adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:30 p.m.

David Turner  
Chair